

REMARKS

In light of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are in this application.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Honjo (US 5,337,088).

Independent claim 1 recites in part as follows:

“...when the image data is read in the unit of block consisting of the predetermined number of pixels and the read image data is short of the unit of block, **compensating a short amount** thereof by using image data on an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means.” (Underlining and bold added for emphasis.)

In explaining the above 102 rejection, the Examiner appears to rely on Fig. 2 and column 3, lines 20-56 of Honjo to disclose the above-recited feature of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the portions of Honjo relied upon by the Examiner (hereinafter “Honjo”) do not disclose “...is short of the unit of block, compensating a short amount thereof by using image data on an end side of an image from the image data stored in the memory means” as in claim 1.

As shown in Fig. 2, each block consists of 8 pixels (1-8 and 9-16). In order to correct the level difference between pixel 8 and pixel 9, the method of Honjo uses the levels of pixel 8 and 9 to correct their respective levels. As such, Honjo appears to take **existing** pixel levels and **correct** them using those levels. Honjo does **not appear to have a short amount** nor does it appear to **compensate for such short amount** by using image data on an end side of an image. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Honjo.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 3, 6, and 7 are believed to be distinguishable from Honjo.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 depend from one of claims 1 and 3 and, due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from Honjo for at least the reasons previously described.

Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Honjo in view of Nozawa (US 6,360,018).¹

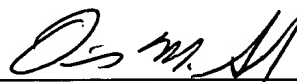
As previously mentioned, claims 3-7 are distinguishable from Honjo. The Examiner does not appear to have relied upon Nozawa to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Honjo. Accordingly, claims 3-7 are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Honjo and Nozawa.

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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¹ Although the Examiner stated that claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), it appears from the last paragraph on page 5 that the Examiner meant to include claims 6 and 7.